

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PHNOM 14544 300219Z

63

ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-04 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05

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FM AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8150

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

USMISSION USUN NY

USLO PEKING

AMCONSUL HONG KONG

C O N F I D E N T I A L PHNOM PENH 14544

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, JA, CH, TB

SUBJ: JAPANESE DISCUSSION IN PEKING ON KHMER QUESTION

1. IN TOUR D'HORIZON WITH EMBASSY OFFICER OCTOBER 29, JAPANESE COUNSELLOR DESCRIBED RECENT "FRANK" CONVERSATION BETWEEN JAPANESE FIRST SECRETARY IN PEKING AND THE CHIEF OF THE INDOCHINA SECTION, ASIAN AFFAIRS BUREAU, PRC FOREIGN MINISTRY.

2. JAPANESE FIRST SECRETARY POINTED OUT TO CHINESE OFFICIAL THAT ALTHOUGH KHMER COMMUNISTS COULD STILL BE CONSIDERED TO HOLD THE MILITARY INITIATIVE, THEY HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO TAKE PHNOM PENH AND HAVE SUFFERED HEAVY LOSSES. CIVILIAN CASUALTIES HAVE ALSO BEEN HIGH. CHINESE RESPONDED THAT IN A STRUGGLE SUCH AS THE CAMBODIAN ONE, LOSSES MUST BE EXPECTED, AND HE REFERRED IN THIS REGARD TO THE SETBACKS ENCOUNTERED BY THE CHINESE COMMUNISTS IN EARLY STAGES OF THEIR CAMPAIGN. (JAPANESE COUNSELLOR COMMENTED ON THE EVIDENT ACCEPTANCE BY THE CHINESE OF THE FACT OF HEAVY KC LOSSES AS WELL AS THE IMPLICIT ASSUMPTION THAT THE

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PAGE 02 PHNOM 14544 300219Z

STRUGGLE FOR TOTAL KC VICTORY COULD BE A LENGTHY

ONE.)

3. IN THE PEKING CONVERSATION, JAPANESE THEN DESCRIBED THE FRIENDLY UN RESOLUTION AS WELL AS GKR JULY 9 UNCONDITIONAL NEGOTIATIONS PROPOSAL AND SAID THAT HE REGRETTED THAT SIHANOUK HAD SO RUDELY REBUFFED THESE OVERTURES TO NEGOTIATIONS. CHINESE RESPONDED IN STANDARD FASHION, SAYING AMONG OTHER THINGS THAT JULY 9 PROPOSAL WAS SIMPLY A MANEUVER DESIGNED SOLELY TO GAIN TIME AND HELP GKR CAUSE AT THE UN. JAPANESE PRESSED ISSUE BY PRESENTING AS A HYPOTHESIS A FRIENDLY RESOLUTION VICTORY AT THE UN, AND ASKING WHAT IN THIS CASE THE CHINESE POSITION WOULD BE ON TALKS DESIGNED TO ACHIEVE A PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO THE CAMBODIAN PROBLEM. CHINESE REPLIED THAT THE CAMBODIAN STRUGGLE IS DESIGNED TO WIN FREEDOM AND SOVEREIGNTY FOR CAMBODIA, AND IT IS CAMBODIAN PEOPLE WHO MUST DECIDE HOW TO DO THIS.

4. FINALLY, THE JAPANESE ASKED ABOUT DIFFERENCES BETWEEN SIHANOUK IN PEKING ON THE ONE HAND AND KHIEU SAMPHAN'S "IN-COUNTRY" GROUP ON THE OTHER. THE CHINESE CONCEDED THAT "IT IS POSSIBLE" DIVISIONS EXIST AND ADDED THAT IN ANY ORGANIZATION THERE ARE BOUND TO BE DIFFERENCES OF OPINION.
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